IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Surendra Goel et al.
Serial No. : 09/749,639
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Title : CATEGORY SEARCHING

Art Unit : 2171
Examiner : Cindy Nguyen

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE

In response to the action mailed October 23, 2002, reconsideration and allowance in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending, with claims 1, 14, 21, and 25 being independent.

Claims 1-8, 10, 14, 21-23, and 25-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Tso et al. (6,385,602). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 1 and 21 recite a method (claim 1) and computer program (claim 21) for performing a category search to identify categories of items that relate to a search term that includes receiving at least one search term, comparing the search term with a hierarchy of category identifiers to determine whether matches exist, comparing the search term with terms related to one or more categories to determine whether matches exist, and displaying at least a category identifier based on the matches that are determined to exist with the hierarchy and the terms. Applicants request withdrawal and reconsideration of the rejections because Tso fails to describe or suggest a method/program for performing a search, as generally required by these claims, and because Tso therefor also fails to disclose particular features of the search recited by the claims.

Tso discloses a method for presenting the results of a search, but does not disclose aspects of actually performing the search being presented. To present the search results, Tso examines search results and dynamically establishes one or more search result categories based upon attributes of the search results. Tso, col. 3, lines 52-56. As such, after a search is performed, categories are dynamically generated by Tso based upon common attributes among the various search results.